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Kuipers' bill to remove charter township budgeting deadline approved

LANSING – The Senate today approved legislation introduced by Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, that would eliminate needless budgeting deadlines for Michigan charter townships.

Without drawing one vote in opposition in the Senate, the bill (SB 725) now goes to the House for review. SB 725 would remove the requirement in state law that charter township boards adopt a budget and make appropriations 60 days before the start of their fiscal year. Cities, villages and general-law townships face no such requirement.

“I’m pleased to see my fellow senators agree that charter townships face a burdensome requirement that sometimes caused local leaders to make budgeting decisions before they could get all the facts they need to set a budget,” said Kuipers, who has eight charter townships in his district.

If SB 725 becomes law, charter township boards would have to hold a public hearing on their budgets by Dec. 15, if they use the calendar year as their fiscal year, and adopt a budget by Dec. 31.

The legislation is supported by the Michigan Townships Association.